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Chicago April 28. 1879

Hon. William L. Garrison

Dear Sir: I write in behalf of the Chicago Historical Society and with the hope that you will send to this Society (if you have a copy to spare) a copy of the last issue of the Liberator and your Autograph. And, my dear Sir, if you have autograph letters from those noble men who worked with you for the abolition of Slavery, or who are to day working for the elevation and happiness of humanity I ask in behalf of this Society, that you will send such as you may feel willing to spare, by Express, to this Society. We wish to preserve the name, the memory and, as far as we can, the records of the friends of humanity and the benefactors of our race. Should you send us letters, they will be bound into Volumes and preserved. Whatever we get from you, whether written or printed, book, pamphlet or newspaper, we shall take care of. I am not unmindful of the fact that you are in your 74th year and too much occupied & spend your time & strength in sorting and arranging letters for this Society; therefore I venture to ask that you will roll up some of your files of old letters and I will assort and read them & if there is a letter that contains a personal or private allusion, not proper for the public, I will return the letter to you. You will probably not

remember having met me. I hope I can speak several times in Boston & Washington & Vt. my native State, and think my friend James Hutchinson once introduced me to you. But the mere introduction or even a slight acquaintance with a man who claims the whole world for his country and all mankind his countrymen, need not be referred to. It is enough for you to know that I am engaged in a good work and when you know that you will cheerfully render the aid asked for.

I will send you a pamphlet shewing what this society was before the fire - three years before. It is now about two years since I took hold to rebuild the Society. Chicago has been rebuilt and is more beautiful than she was before the terrible fire of 1871. This society will be rebuilt. I entered into its service when there was not a dollar in the treasury to pay me for my labor, I worked hard and asked no salary beyond the one which is given to all who have a consciousness of having done some good in the world. We have in our library, to day, over 3000 volumes of bound books, over 8000 pamphlets and unbound books, two volumes of Autograph Letters bound, and enough to make two volumes more, which will be bound at an early day; a large collection of newspapers & magazines and a good house owned by the Society in which these treasures are deposited and made accessible and free to any person in the whole world who wishes to examine them. I call that a pretty good work for two years. Our works are not trashy, but generally historical or statistical. The Charitable Societies of Boston are well represented. We have 38 Vols. of Reports of Boston Institutions - full series in most cases. For example we have full series of Repts. of Mass. Genl. Hospital; Perkins Institution; N.E. Hospital for women; Children's Hospital; Home for Aged Men; Home for Aged Women; Consumptives Home; Washington Home; Benevolent fraternity of Churches (4 Vols); Y.M.C.A.; Y.W.C.A.; Y.M.C. Union; Infant Asylum &c &c — If its correspondents we would like to secure the records of the Anti Slavery society's reports - of these we have but few - Of the Am. Colonization we have nearly a full series - lack but 4 or 5 - Pardon me for writing so long a letter to you - but believe me sincerely your friend & admirer. Albert D. Hager Librarian